

XVIII. *On a new African Fig Insect* (*Blastophaga dyscritus*,  
*sp. n.*). By JAMES WATERSTON, B.D., B.Sc.

(Published by permission of the Trustees of the British  
Museum.)

[Read December 1st, 1920.]

IN some recent notes on Fig Insects (Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond., 1920, p. 128) I recorded under the name *Blastophaga allotriozoonoides* Grnd., a single ♀ from Kabete, B.E. Africa (T. J. Anderson), which, as I remarked at the time, did not quite agree with the description and figures of that species. When the notes referred to were being drawn up it did not seem to me safe to send the slide by post to Portici, but this difficulty has now been removed, and Dr. Grandi after comparing my specimen with *B. allotriozoonoides* Grnd., and the closely related *B. enriquesi* Grnd., is definitely of the opinion that the Entebbe example is referable to neither species and should be considered new. Dr. Grandi's two species and that now described form a group whose members are exceedingly closely related, but a detailed comparison of the three shows minute differences all over. While it is possible that additional annectant forms may be discovered (which might give rise to a discussion of the status of members of the group), it seems best to treat the three known forms separately, as they are probably attached to different plants. Unfortunately in none of the three cases is the host fig known.

***Blastophaga dyscritus*, sp. n.**

Head:—Length (depth) and breadth subequal (39:40). Lobes of the clypeus distinct. Antenna (fig. 1 *a*). Scape (2:1) with a well-marked ventral prominence. Pedicel (9:7) flatter along the dorsal edge and more salient medianly ventrally. The seven sensoria-bearing joints of the funicle (reckoning from the base of each to the apex of the lowermost sense organ) are in the following ratio, 31, 34, 32, 32, 35, 35, 34, with breadths respectively 26, 26, 29, 31, 33, 30, 20. These breadths have been measured under slight pressure. Sensoria on joints, five to eleven, as follows:—10, 10, 11, 12–13, 12, 11, 7–8. Mandible (fig. 1 *b*) massive, its ventral outline less quadrate than in  
TRANS. ENT. SOC. LOND. 1920.—PARTS III, IV, V. (APR.'21) EE

either *B. allotriozonoides* or *B. enriquesi*, with six laminar ridges whose inner terminations from the 2nd to the 4th project like teeth. There are besides three apical teeth. Appendage narrow with about twenty rows of denticulations. The last (innermost) denticle in each row larger and stout. Excluding this the maximum number of denticles in a row is six to seven. The outer edge of the appendage

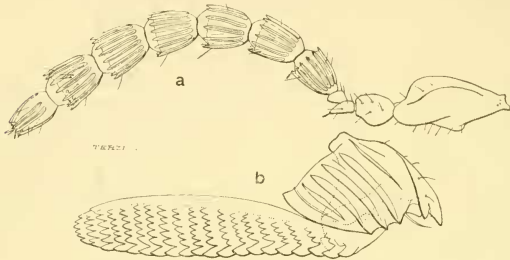


FIG. 1.

thins out into an exceedingly fine smooth edge. Not reckoning this fine edge the appendage is about six times as long as broad.

Legs:—Fore-legs, coxae twice as long as broad. Femur nearly three times as long as broad. Mid-legs, coxa broader than long (5:4). Femur nearly thrice the trochanter in length. Tarsus first joint longer (5:4) than the second, fifth longer (9:7) than the third. Femur about one and three-quarter times as long as broad.

Dimensions:—Length, head and body = about 2 mm., ovipositor 1.2 mm. Length of fore-wing, 1.5 mm., breadth, .7 mm.

Type ♀ in B.M.

APRIL 21, 1921.